

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed November 17, 2003, claims 1-67 were deemed to be subject to restriction or election. More specifically, restriction is required for Group I (Claim 32), Group II (Claims 35-40), Group III (Claim 54), Group IV (Claims 1-17, 18 and 19, 41-53 and 55), Group V (Claims 1, 20-24, and 57-61), Group VI (Claims 25-31), Group VII (Claims 33-34), and Group VIII (Claims 62-67). Further, the Office Action stated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct subcombinations. In addition, the Office Action stated that Applicant is required to elect a disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits.

By this Amendment and Response, the Applicant hereby elects Group V (Claims 1, 20-24, and 57-61 as well as claim 41) without traverse. As claim 41 is similar to claim 1, and claim 57 depends from claim 41, Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended for claim 41 to be included in Group V. The Applicant's election is without prejudice or admission with respect to the Applicant's right to re-file the withdrawn claims in a continuing application. No new matter has been introduced into the application. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 12, 2003

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